

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS: How Health Departments Work and How to Work with Health Departments

WHAT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CAN OFFER SCHOOLS: PROMOTING HEALTHY SCHOOL POLICIES

Public health departments can be valuable allies to state and local education agencies seeking to achieve healthy schools. Helping to promote or improve these partnerships is the goal of Partnering for Success: How Health Departments Work and How to Work with Health Departments,¹ a publication developed by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD). Partnering for Success outlines 11 key ways in which public health departments can help advance school health goals. This document focuses on one of these: promoting healthy school policies.

Like education departments, health departments keep up to date on legislation that affects the health of a state's school population and can provide data, policy support, and strategic actions to support the school health policy agenda. In South Carolina the departments of health and education joined together to support the state's Student Health and Fitness Act, which required every elementary school to have a school nurse.

Questions related to promoting healthy school policies that public health agencies can help answer include:

- Where can we find model legislation for physical activity requirements?
- How can we work together to support legislation in support of a coordinated approach to school health in every district in our state?

When it comes to addressing the health of our nation's young people, the public health system is an underutilized resource. Your state or local health department is the place to go for help in building healthy schools.

About NACDD

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) is a national public health association for chronic disease program directors of each state and U.S. territory. Founded in 1988, NACDD links together more than 1,400 members to advocate for preventive policies and programs, encourage knowledge sharing and develop partnerships for health promotion. Since its founding, NACDD has been a national leader in mobilizing efforts to reduce chronic diseases and their associated risk factors through state and community-based prevention strategies. For more information, please visit <http://www.chronicdisease.org>.

¹ *Partnering for Success: How Health Departments Work and How to Work with Health Departments* (the full publication) and one-page summaries describing how public health departments can help schools in 11 specific areas are available at: <http://www.chronicdisease.org/nacdd-initiatives/school-health/publications/Partnering-for-Success>